

## The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15, 1913.

## THE SOUTH'S EDUCATIONAL PAGEANT.

That is an excellent suggestion that a historical and allegorical pageant be presented at the Conference on Education in the South to be held in Richmond the middle of April. With the aid of Southern authors and teachers it should be possible to present a series of pictures showing what the South has meant to the nation in the past. But the pageant to which this conference had better direct its serious attention right now is the procession of the Southern States footed the last of the Union on ten main educational counts as recorded in the efficiency tables published by the Sage Foundation. This is the pageant that ought to make the South forget she ever had a glorious past in terrible shame for her inglorious present. In order, these are the last thirteen States in education: Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Virginia, we rejoice in the rank of forty-first, Kentucky, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and, ending the parade of ignorance, Alabama.

This Southern Educational Conference has no money or time to waste on pretty frills. It has a man's job before it in suggesting how this terrible indictment before the civilized world can be answered. If a few pictures of what the South has done can help her to get to work on this problem, by all means let us have the pageant. But if the past is going to be made an excuse for sitting inert in self-complacent satisfaction with the squalid ignorance of our people to-day, then cut out the picture stuff and spend that money in mailing the Sage Foundation report throughout the land, so that a knowledge of the true conditions may be preliminary to reform.

The South is last in the number of children in school, the expenditure per child, the average of school days per child, the average attendance, the size of school plants, number of high schools and salaries paid teachers. These are the cold facts to be faced. This is the text for the conference. Let's make some history, not talk about ancient history.

## THE CRISIS IN PORTUGAL.

Another crisis in Portugal and another batch of conflicting news as to the situation and conditions, and of speculation as to the ultimate outcome—create news on the one hand and gloom on the other. Amid it all a contemporary asks "what ails Portugal?" The answer is not difficult. It is summed up in the one word "politicians."

The Portuguese revolution, through which the monarchy was overthrown and the republic established, was essentially a revolution of politicians, as differentiated from an upheaval of the people. The masses of the nation are among the most illiterate of those of any in Europe; also they are among the most inert and indifferent, and largely they accepted the new order negatively. So long had they been ground down by poverty and onerous taxation, that in great measure they had become little less than fatalists. They reasoned, if in truth they reasoned at all, that no change could bring worse for them. Nor has the change rendered their lot better or worse to any appreciable extent.

Ever since the birth of the "infant republic" the politicians have been fighting among themselves for power and pelf. Cabinet downfalls have been as frequent as they were in the earlier days of the present French republic. Meanwhile the same old abuses have obtained, promises of reform, relief from the exactions of the tax-gatherer, economy in general and local governmental administration, and amelioration of the conditions of the artisan classes have been made by each successive ministry, only to be broken. Labor strikes have been common. If the monarchy was intolerant in favoring clericalism, the republic has been no less so in supporting regularism, and socialism in its most dangerous form, as akin to anarchy, has repeatedly raised its hideous head. Time and again chaos has seemed imminent.

Small wonder then, in such aspects, that there are those who despair of the republic and predict a reversion to monarchy or the advent of a dictator. Yet there are not the only aspects. There are others which inspire hope.

It is no slight encouragement that Portugal has so long stood the strain of this state of affairs, this accumulation of disappointments and has avoided actual chaos and anarchy. More encouraging and hope-inspiring still is the evidence that meantime appreciation of, and a spirit of loyalty to, true republican institutions have been developing among the rank and file of all classes save the monarchists. A recent exhaustive review of the Portuguese situation in Paris Temps, the writer of which is referred to as having taken the greatest pains in securing himself on the subject, he discusses, says relative to the popular public awakening to republicanism.

"But in the very moment when one might believe that the people were securely freed by consecutive disasters had faith in the republic, the towns of Lisbon, on hearing of the incursion of the Royalists in the North, aroused itself to a man with a magnificent burst of

enthusiasm. The people and the army united for the defense of the republic. And thus in less than two years the republic has succeeded not only in satisfying the consciences, but even in gaining the hearts of those who henceforth will be its faithful adherents."

A confirmed and unreasoning pessimist must be he who cannot, in all the circumstances, see in this the foreshadowing of a trial of conclusions between the people and the politicians for the vindication of republicanism, and a silver lining of promise to the Portuguese cloud, dark as it appears at present. With the principle of real representative and constitutional government once implanted in the hearts of the people, and beginning to quicken and flourish, and to be stimulated by knowledge of selfish leadership betrayal, the result of the trial can hardly be in doubt.

## MASSACHUSETTS'S MISTAKE.

The nation is disappointed at the choice of Massachusetts for her vacant seat in the Senate of the United States. Her fine tradition of high public service cannot be maintained by John Wingate Weeks, whose party regularity was the controlling reason for his election to sit beside Cabot Lodge. In the light of the long roll of uncommonly able statesmen who have represented the Old Bay State in the Senate, it was to be expected that some man of independence, force and experience in public affairs would be chosen. There was Samuel W. McCall who could have restored to his State its great senatorial traditions of former times, but the narrow vision of the Republican majority in the Legislature closed the door of the Senate to him who was best able to bend the bow of Webster and Sumner. The South entertains deep respect for the breadth, the intellectual strength and the public service of Mr. McCall. When Massachusetts elects a Weeks to the Senate, she is stopped from criticizing the South for the manner of some of the men that represent her in the national councils.

## JUST FRESH AIR.

Fresh air is the only necessity that is free nowadays in big cities. Why then cannot Richmond have enough for good health? The Council should take immediate steps to pass the ordinance recommended by Dr. Levy authorizing the City Health Board to enforce rules for the proper heating, ventilation and sanitation of all public buildings, including theatres, halls and auditoriums for whatever purpose used. Brief agitation has resulted in marked improvement in street-car ventilation, but the health officer should have control over the other disease-breeding foul air traps. The importance of fresh air and plenty of it is a matter of almost everyday knowledge. In last week's health report from Cleveland, Ohio, it is noted that deaths from "bad air diseases" showed a marked increase. There is a distinct and recognized class of disease in whole or in part due to bad air. The winter is the season of bad air. Public halls are the most frequent collectors of bad air, and of the germs that thrive under bad air conditions. Let the Health Department control such evils.

Specifically the constantly frequent moving picture shows ought to be better ventilated. If 70,000 persons, many of whom are children, visit them every week, their health should be protected. Department stores also could be improved. Not least, attention should be given to the air supply of churches. Bad air is immoral; and some of the noteworthy drowsiness of congregations is often due not so much to poor sermons as poor ventilation. The typhoid death rate in Richmond has been wonderfully reduced by attention largely to the water supply and sanitation. But the tuberculosis rate was reduced in 1912 by only two deaths, from 321 to 321. Tuberculosis is largely a "bad air disease." We have purified our water supply. Let this ordinance help purify our air supply.

## MEDIATION OF THE FIREMEN'S DEMANDS.

The protracted negotiations between the representatives of the locomotive firemen and the managers of the railroads east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers has finally resulted in an agreement to submit the matters at issue to mediation under the Erdman act. This decision is, in its ultimate analysis, a severe blow to the movement for compulsory arbitration of railroad wage disputes, or for arbitration by a board of prominent citizens according to the procedure followed in the recent adjustment of wages and working conditions between the railroads and the locomotive engineers. The firemen's organization absolutely refused to become a party to and severely arraigned the form of arbitration adopted by the engineers and the railroads.

The attempt to mediate between the firemen and the railroads will probably be without result, and it will be necessary to have recourse to the arbitration feature of the Erdman act. The firemen have evidently been planning with this object in view all along and will continue their efforts towards this end. By the terms of the Erdman act, the board of arbitration consists of three members, one being allotted to each of the parties to the controversy and the third being an impartial referee. The procedure is the same as that followed in a Federal court, and a decision must be handed down within thirty days after the proceedings are begun. The advantages of this method of arbitration as compared with the procrastination, needless delay and expense incident to the usual board of arbitration made up of seven members, are apparent.

## GOOD ROADS MEETINGS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Every public school in Virginia should hold a good roads meeting this month. The Co-Operative Education Association in a circular just issued by the State Department of Public Instruction, urges that such meetings be held to stimulate interest in this vital public question. It is undoubtedly true that, if the people will attend these discussions in the schools, the result will be real work for the improvement of these roads, particularly those leading

to the schoolhouses. Every effort ought to be made to secure the largest possible attendance of citizens, and notices of the meetings should be published far and wide. Where there are civic leagues they should effect successful community conferences concerning the need of better highways. In schools where there are no leagues, the principal or teacher should assume the responsibility and take the initiative in calling a meeting.

The circular urging action in this direction has been sent to every school with the request that it be turned over to civic leagues, where such organizations have been formed. To enlist the interest of the school pupils, the Co-Operative Education Association offers a prize of \$5 for the best paper on the value of good roads. In order to qualify it for competition, it must be read by its author at a public meeting held in the school during the month of January. The circular suggests an excellent program for a good roads meeting, including the reading of the best paper in each school by its author, an address by some adult of the community, and a debate as to the best method of securing improved highways. In addition, some person in the community should read a paper or deliver an address on the good roads question in his particular country, and discuss the local roads in informing detail. Valuable facts about better highways are presented in compact form in the circular.

The State Department of Public Instruction and the Co-Operative Education Association in this commendable endeavor should have the whole-hearted co-operation of every school in the Old Dominion. Good roads meetings will mean better roads, and better roads will mean better school facilities for pupils. The people in a community without good roads suffer incalculable loss through their inaction.

## REGULATE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS.

The most recent novelty in the direction of matrimonial legislation is a movement to cause all proposals of marriage to be rendered invalid unless made in writing. If the plan is enacted into law, no mere verbal proposal would be sufficient ground upon which to base a breach of promise suit. Young women in quest of husbands would have to carry along with their powder rags blank forms to be filled out like dance cards by suitors while on bended knee.

The men, too, would be protected by such a requirement. No man ought to be convicted of a proposal upon the prejudiced and interested testimony of the proposee. Most breach of promise suits are brought by women who hate the male defendant because he does not love them, and yet the uncorroborated testimony of the female is regarded as conclusive proof of the opposite party's guilt. Moreover, there are so many over-anxious women who construe altogether meaningless actions to be equivalent to an offer to wed. The statute books are filled with cases where an unwitting and unoffending man has been successfully sued for breach of promise because of some innocent thing he said or did. It has been decided in a Western State that if a single man invites a single woman to take a walk and merely points out a house to her and says, "How would you like to live there?" he has made a proposal of marriage. "Yours faithfully" at the end of an impersonal letter would doubtless be enough evidence in some progressive States to prove a proposal by some wight who never possessed the means to it.

A law requiring proposals to be in writing would undoubtedly be declared unconstitutional because it would safeguard man's inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Latest from the front—the Colonel on Governor Mann's staff are practicing horsemanship riding daily in preparation for the engagement in Washington on March 4.

What is a bellsnicker? ("No fair" for anybody from the Valley to tell).

Dead men's ashes are being sent by parcels post. To or from that torrid zone that Dante wrote about?

Chicago is regulating down-town pedestrian traffic by policemen with whistles, who blow to signal vehicles when foot travelers are to be permitted to cross in reasonable safety. While Richmond feet do not complicate traffic as the Chicago kind may, it would be a good idea for the traffic squad on Broad and Main Streets to lay down a few rules for the safe and expeditious handling of pedestrians.

The Bunny Trot dances have an element of good in them. They are good for fat people who want to reduce weight.

Richmond can crow this week. The Poultry Show is hatched.

Professor Wilson's course of University Extension Lectures is not too "high brow" for the uneducated plutocrat to understand.

This is a terrible winter for the coal barons.

What operation is most to be dreaded? The Manassas Journal declares that a local wit says that he fears nothing that the surgeon can do as much as the cutting off of his "booze."

From that town of old Virginia good cheer and good neighborhood, Boydton, comes the news, according to the Mecklenburg Times-Star, that a number of its citizens "celebrated New Year's Day in a most commendable manner" by sending a generous supply of apples, nuts, candies and smoking tobacco to the convicts who are camped near the town. Such warm-hearted thought of the unfortunate is true to the best traditions of the place and its people.

"Put the Lebanon News in the home of absent relatives," suggests that newspaper, but such good reading really ought to be put in the homes of those who stay at home.

## On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

**Caught on the Fly.**  
An Arkansas woman, aged 113, took her first ride on a railroad train the other day. If she had started on an Arkansas railroad fifty years ago, she might be somewhere by now.

Physicians have forbidden Harry Lauder to play "Hamlet." Occasionally the physician issues an order that is strictly worth while.

A Kansas City woman paid \$50 for a husband. People should be more careful of their money.

Woodrow Wilson will also get a degree from the electoral college. Milk is now being recommended as a hair tonic. Sure. Look at the bald-headed babies who have grown hair.

Anyhow, the modern woman doesn't have to worry for fear that her petticoat drags, because she doesn't wear one.

Fashionable women of Paris have discarded rouge, according to report. That sounds like a bare-faced lie. Wilson's nomination cost \$200,000, and now it remains to be seen whether the nomination was worth it.

Mr. Zerkowolski lives in Pittsburgh. He owes a great deal to the last letter of the alphabet.

John's aspirations have as much to do with the teacup as with the yachting trophy. The British rules are to be revised. Upward or downward?

**According to Uncle Abner.**  
M. Egbert Lowry is going the pace that kills, according to reports from down the city. He didn't get to bed before 2 o'clock any night last week. He is getting to be quite a dramatic cricket, having attended three moving picture shows within a month. The Rev. Hudnut has got a good job planing off the bottoms of the church doors with a safety razor so they will open easy and folks won't have so much trouble getting in.

Miss Amy Fringle lost most all of her luggage last week when she was calling on Mrs. Jed Frink and was playing with Mrs. Frink's cat, which is one of the best fatters in the village. Grandma Perkins is again the schoolhouse at this writing, and it is feared she is near her journey's end. Mrs. Anson Frisby was going to join the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was searching through her trunk when she found five ancestors had died in State's Prison, four in the asylum and nine in the poorhouse. She has given up joining the Daughters of the Revolution and will join the Larkin Soap Club instead, where you don't have to have any pride of ancestry or hope of posterity.

Chet Blinks kicked because he found a chaperon button in the hash at the Hotel Hickoryville last week. He probably wanted a whole suit of clothes. There is no satisfying some people. Miss Phyllis Swank and Jay Higgins expect to surprise their friends by eloping next Wednesday evening. This will probably cause some little gossip, as Jay is believed to have three wives living and one in Battle Creek.

James Stebbins has got a wen on his nose and every time he wants to look crossways he has to turn around.

Grandma Gibbins says when a fellow gets a new linen handkerchief out of the store it is like tripping your nose on a pane of glass.

**Irresistible Impulses.**  
To scrutinize the hash in a 3-cent restaurant.  
To begin eating a piece of pie at the store end.

To ask your friend how many miles he can get out of a gallon.  
To hit the back of your friend's head with the potato masher, whether it needs it or not.

To walk off with your friend's lead pencil.  
To try some new kind of fuel for the furnace every new month.

To tell a friend that his 25th birthday present make a noise like \$25.

**Who?**  
Who put the hack in Hackensack?  
Who put the buck in Timbuctoo?  
Who put the sand in Sandringham?  
Who put the zoo in Zamboanga?

Who put the sas in Arkansas?  
Who put the ham in Hammingham?  
Who put the miss in Mississippi?  
Who put the dam in Amsterdam?

We'll answer all of these for you, but there's one thing we cannot tell—Who put all that enormous price—in hard coal that the dealers sell.

**Plowing.**  
It is the first day of the year, and I plow a field:  
It is a rounded knoll, and the furrow falls down all around  
And what a strange musical sound is the falling of the loose furrow!  
And the smell of the fresh mould is like being else in the world.  
I hang my hat on a tree, and work bareheaded in the winter sun.  
The Virgin hills have no brook tinkles, and the air is sweet.  
Many ideas come to me unbidden, and through my mind a rapid procession.

I am doing good plowing—real work, and I am very happy.  
And I think the fact that it starts me—almost scares me—things that come from nowhere.

The plow runs six inches deep, and turns up strange stones that no plowman ever plowed up before:  
Who will know after 100 years from now whether I did good plowing or not?  
Shall I stop and heave out that rock with the crowbar?  
Who will know if I did good work when I leave against their collars, and they know that they are doing good work, and are happy.

I feel the strength of a man, it is seven, and I have my thoughts besides:  
They come like the music of a choir of singers in procession—also opera music:  
The January sun covers me, and I am happy, for I am doing good work.

EDMOND FONTAINE,  
Charlottesville, Va. January 12, 1913.

**Away With Bowery Ballads!**  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir: Although I am very young and accustomed to hearing the new-fangled music and songs of to-day, I very often hear the old sweet melodies of long ago and wonder why it is that all the sentiment and sweetness have so deserted the writers of to-day that nothing of their kind is ever produced. There is absolutely nothing in the smallest measure of the old-time sentimentality of our Southland and the Old Dominion. Has it really degenerated to such a degree that it

Abe Martin

is never fallen 'till 't' your name in a paper is 't' climb thro' a barbed wire fence with a gun. What's become o' th' clever old butcher that used 't' trim th' steak instead o' th' customer?

Organized Courtesy.  
The railway owes to those who make use of its lines a service which it can only render if every employee is brought to feel that his actual employer is the daily-shifting mass of fellowmen who buy tickets and ride on them.

What the road owes to these travelers is safety, in comfort, in service, in the sense of duty, in the treatment—every individual member of the operating force equally should feel to be his own personal duty.

Personal responsibility—that is the thing!

Just as the man who computes stresses and strains in the engineering department; the structural steel worker who does honestly his part of the bridge-building; the alert, faithful track-walker; the signalman, engineer, fireman, conductor, trainman, other, twelfthousand men of good government, personally responsible to the company, to the traveler, and to his own conscience for the safety of those who ride

## A DAY WITH AN OPTIMIST.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1909, by John T. McCutcheon.)



Ah, the weather could be improved. Still—spring will be much pleasanter by contrast.

Hi, hi! Some one is likely to get hurt on these slippery sidewalks. This is a good, strong sidewalk, however.



Now for a jolly romp. This is great training for the tango.

Dear me! I came nearly obstructing the traffic just then. This is, indeed, a rapid era.



Here is where I get my feet wet. Still—just think how happy some doctor will be.

Now for a nice, quiet day at home—away from the bustle and hurry of business.

by rail, so every railway worker who comes into human contact with the traveling public is personally responsible for the comfort of those we all serve.

And, by the same token, a traveler, to be comfortable, must have comfort of mind as well as of body. Thus every railway worker is bound by his personal duty to accord to every man, woman and child whom he meets the courteous treatment which means full satisfaction.

When the time comes, as it will and must, when every member of the operating force appreciates his personal responsibility in these particulars, the service will have reached a degree of smoothness and efficiency which the management is determined to attain—Monthly Bulletin of the Traffic Department, Chicago and Northwestern.

## VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS

## An Appeal to Governor Mann.

Just one word to Governor Mann. We are not of purpose Governor, and we oppose the commutation of Claude Allen's sentence or that of Floyd Allen. Do your duty, Governor. Hold fast to your nerve—show the public that the gubernatorial spinal column is made of stuff that neither breaks nor bends before the storm of passing clamor. Let the law take its course, and our word for it in less than twelve months many of those—now, looking toward the penitentiary and seeing two men condemned to die are moved with pity so great that they'll readily sign clemency petitions, will rejoice in your strength of purpose. Governor, and your fearless consecration to duty, and your supreme fidelity to trust—and will unite in the verdict that you have done wisely and well, and faithfully and with the responsibility of the public trust. Let it be otherwise, however—let both or either of these men escape the doom provided by law and ascertained by the courts, and we believe the year will never come in the life of the present generation when the seed thus planted will not spring up in an abundant harvest of regrets. There are the two ways before you, Governor—to one the finger of mistaken sentiment and opposition to capital punishment points to the other the imperious dictates of high and compelling duty lead you. One ends in the tangled underbrush and swamp-cursed domain of irretrievable mistake—the other, in influencing you to stand by the courts of the Commonwealth, may be a bit difficult to walk in its first stage, but it will take you to the highest places—to the goal of increased public confidence—to the place of honor and the sense of duty clothed in the garments of courageous performance, of lofty vindication, of inspiring, impressive, splendid dignity.—Lynchburg News.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE

## The Civic Pessimist.

No one thing is more discouraging to the workers for civic advance or more dangerous to the well-being of the State and nation than that species of American citizenship which may be called the civic pessimist. He it is who regards every civic mistake or backward step as conclusive evidence that the city is a hopeless muddle and must perennially remain uncleansed of its filth; who looks upon every step in advance as a delicious opportunity for progress; who is in his own mind the knacker against good government, and in the friend of good government, because, in an abstract way, he condemns in respectable terms the evil in politics and government; but in reality he is the deadly enemy of good government, because, by his insidious speech, he incites and circulates the germ of civic pessimism—that germ which urges men to let the stream run muddy "because it is useless to try to purge it." He is not a Democrat for as cause he is the knacker against good government, and if he had his way he would knock our civic hope into a million pieces.

OSWALD RYAN, J.  
Member National Municipal League.  
From the "City of Denver."

Organized Courtesy.  
The railway owes to those who make use of its lines a service which it can only render if every employee is brought to feel that his actual employer is the daily-shifting mass of fellowmen who buy tickets and ride on them.

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ated the continuance of this policy, and it is recalled very distinctly that the majority of them were very outspoken in opposition to it.

Nevertheless, the Legislature refused to abolish the practice, and the board of directors of the penitentiary just have concluded a contract with a St. Louis firm, under the terms of which 500 convicts are to be hired to the concern to be worked in the manufacture of cretelle.

The only excuse we have seen for the continuance of the system of leasing convicts is that the State is not in a financial condition to justify the abolition of the policy which has obtained for years. This is not a valid excuse. If it were to follow a system the evils of which are recognized so universally, there can be no excuse for retaining it. There is not the slightest evidence to show that the Legislature made attempts to reduce the cost of the State government in order to obviate the evil of consigning men to servitude in order to realize funds with which to carry on that government.

It is not clear to the minds of lawyers that the State has a constitutional right to hire out her convicts in this manner. Certainly the world is entitled to a stage of development where men do not look with equanimity upon a system which is hardly a step removed from barbarism.

If Governor Mann had refused to approve the contract leasing the convicts he would have found that the people of the entire State would have been behind him. It is an outrage upon every manufacturer of overalls who employs free labor, and it equally is an outrage upon labor.—Petersburg Index-Appal.

**No Chance For Missionary Work.**  
Two editors just appointed United States Senators—but unfortunately for very brief terms. They will hardly be in the Senate long enough to succeed in improving the morals of that body to any material extent.—Petersburg Progress.

**Misspent Emery.**

If the same energy directed in an effort to secure a small Federal office was used by the applicants toward building up enterprises for the town in which they dwell what a wonderful showing could be made in the course of a few years. This observation is not applicable to local conditions only, it is country-wide.—New Castle Record.

**Magnificent, But Not Simplicity.**  
Governor Mann and his colonels are planning to attend the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson. In full regalia, including gold tassels, gold braid, gold cords, gold buttons, gold eye glasses and gold spectacles, they will invade the capital. Virginia horses, through-breds with cropped manes and cropped tails, will bear them in the inaugural parade, and beholding them the assembled concourse of humanity will forget that there ever was such a thing as Jeffersonian simplicity.—Roanoke World.

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